

3.2 Effects Found Not Significant during Initial Study

This section provides discussions of those effects that were identified as not significant or less than significant during the Initial Study process and did not require further analysis: Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Parks and Recreation. The Initial Study was made available by the County at the time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was released (September 11, 2014). A summary of the findings from the Initial Study document for these issue areas is provided in this section.

3.2.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The Proposed Project site and areas of off-site improvements do not contain agricultural resources, including forest land or timberland. The site is not zoned for agriculture, does not have an agricultural preserve or overlay, and is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract. There are no adjacent agricultural uses that would be affected by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no direct or cumulative impacts to agriculture and forestry resources.

3.2.2 Mineral Resources

The Proposed Project would not result in permanent loss of availability of aggregate resources, including sand and gravel, because such resources, if present and economically viable, could be extracted in the future after decommissioning. A mining claim exists just to the west of the Project site, although no mining, either current or in the past, is evident. The value of the claim is not known. The Project area is not in the vicinity of a Mineral Resource Zone, and no mineral resource recovery site is delineated in the Project area on the County of San Diego (County) General Plan or other land use plan. The expense of mining and processing of crushed rock combined with transportation costs currently restricts crushed rock operations to urbanized areas within the Western San Diego Consumption Region of the County. Therefore, impacts related to the potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region and the residents of the state as a result of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

3.2.3 Population and Housing

The Proposed Project does not include a residential or recreational component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a direct impact to population and housing. Because of the presence of locally available workers (San Diego and Imperial Counties), and because of the relatively short duration of construction (approximately 6 months), workers are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once the Proposed Project is operational, it would not employ any workers on site. Additionally, the electricity generated by the Proposed Project would be fed directly into the regional electricity grid and would not serve or facilitate any growth of the local population

directly. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or requiring additional housing.

3.2.4 Parks and Recreation

Demands for parks and recreational facilities are directly related to local population levels. The Proposed Project does not include any residential use, such as a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction for a single-family residence that would cause a direct increase in population. The Proposed Project does not include any new or physically altered governmental facilities (parks), or any recreational component, such as a hotel, resort, campground, or other facility that would attract or accommodate an increase in visitors to the area that would indirectly increase the use or demand for recreational and park facilities and services. Since the construction workers would be working in the area temporarily and are not expected to relocate to the area with their families, they are not expected to generate a substantial demand for local park services. No increase in the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities would result from the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not directly, through physical alteration, or indirectly, through increased use, result in the necessity to construct or expand recreational facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities (parks).

Once construction is complete, the Proposed Project would not add any permanent employees. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not considered to contribute to a substantial increase in demand for park and recreational services.